



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson**

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**Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

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#### **REGULAR MEETING**

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#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.*

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Lillian Hansen, grandmother of Councilor Bill Johnson.*

#### **III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO TOWN COUNCILORS - Town Clerk**

*The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to the new Town Councilors.*

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF TWENTY-SEVENTH COUNCIL TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**2009-0300**

**Adoption of Temporary Rules and Procedures for Twenty-Seventh Town Council**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH COUNCIL**

RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-Sixth Council are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures for the Twenty-Seventh Council, elected November 3, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

#### **V. ELECTION OF MAYOR - Town Clerk**

*The Town Clerk called for nominations for Mayor.*

*Councilor Watson nominated Councilor Streeter as Mayor, stating that Mr. Streeter is a tireless volunteer in the community and he will be proud to serve as a Councilor under his leadership. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Monteiro.*

*The Town Clerk asked for any further nominations.*

*MOTION TO CLOSE nominations was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Sheets, and so voted unanimously.*

*VOTE to elect James Streeter as Mayor passed unanimously.*

#### **VI. PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR**

*Town Clerk Tarbox presented newly elected Mayor Streeter with the gavel.*

*Mayor Streeter commented that this has been a very eventful year. He thanked the Town, the community, and his family for their confidence in electing him as Mayor. He extended his appreciation to Harry Watson for his dedicated service as Mayor for the past six years, and to Rita Schmidt, Kathryn Brown-Tracy, and Dean Antipas for their service to the community as Councilors.*

*The Mayor declared a brief recess at 7:39 p.m., with the Council reconvening at 7:50 p.m.*

## **VII. APPOINTMENT OF RULES COMMITTEE**

### **2009-0301 Appointment of Temporary Rules Committee by Mayor**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES COMMITTEE BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor hereby appoints the following members to the Temporary Rules Committee to review the Twenty-Sixth Council Rules as temporarily adopted for the Twenty-Seventh Council:

1. Councilor Watson
2. Councilor O'Beirne
3. Councilor Kolnaski

## **VIII. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

### **2009-0292 Proclamation Honoring Hali Keeler**

#### **Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson who had presented it at a celebration at Bill Memorial Library.*

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **2009-0161 SEA-CMEEC Proposed Electric Generating Facilities**

#### **Heard at Public Hearing**

*Mayor Streeter called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m.*

*The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.*

*Glenn Wilson, Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, gave a brief overview of the proposed facility. SEA-CMEEC is owned by six municipal utilities in Connecticut. The facility will be outfitted with the latest in emission controls, alarms, and cameras which will be monitored at the network operation center located in the Norwich facility. He welcomes the Town's support for this project.*

*The Town Manager handed out a map of the proposed site and an email from Attorney Kipnis requesting that the vote on this item be expedited due to the time constraints that SEA-CMEEC is facing.*

*There being no further comments, Mayor Streeter closed the Public Hearing at 8:01 p.m.*

## **IX. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*John Peters, 233 Judson Avenue, is concerned about a drainage problem in the Fishtown Brook watershed and storm drain. Mr. Peters stated that flooding has occurred many times, with eight inches of water in his basement in July 2009. He believes that the drainage has been engineered incorrectly and would like to meet with Town officials to discuss this problem.*

*Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, stated that there will be a breakfast for Children First Southeastern Connecticut on December 3, 2009. This will be a legislative breakfast outlining*

*accomplishments during the last year and potential efforts for the future.*

**X. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Councilor Watson stated that he met with Mr. Peters and some of his neighbors and confirmed the damage caused by the drainage problem. He noted that there is already a referral on this item.*

*The Town Manager stated that this is a long-standing problem and he will have Gary Schneider give a full briefing when the referral is discussed.*

**XI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

**2009-0293 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 17, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items**

*The Mayor expressed his gratitude for all of the special trust fund contributions, highlighting a \$5,000 contribution by Elinor Fillion, in memory of Elizabeth Everson Williams, to the library miscellaneous fund.*

**2009-0291 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Robert Ashworth - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Andrew and Allison Thorne - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Elinor Fillion, in memory of Elizabeth Everson Williams - \$5,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Mechelle Core - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Carla & Paul Henschel - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Old Mystic Fire District - \$265.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Servidio - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**2009-0295 Tax Refund**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX REFUND**

WHEREAS, the following, for the reason indicated, has overpaid taxes in the amount specified, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the amount be refunded, be it

RESOLVED, that the tax refunds indicated below are hereby approved.

MTU-Aero Engines GMBH - \$2,808.40 - Excess Payments

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**XII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Watson attended a Council of Governments meeting, a Council of Governments Regional Water Committee meeting, and a Children First Southeastern Connecticut meeting. He handed out food at Human Services for the Thanksgiving holiday, and reminded citizens that there will be another food distribution on December 18, 2009.*

*Councilor Sheets noted that the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community is planning a series of three workshops.*

*Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Watson received a communication regarding the elderly tax program interest rate being too high.*

*Councilor Kolnaski attended a Children First Southeastern Connecticut meeting. She received calls about the speed of cars at the crosswalk from Esker Point to the parking lot.*

*Councilor Flax received an email regarding the traffic near Esker Point.*

**2009-0312****Communicating with Groton Citizens****COMMUNICATING WITH GROTON CITIZENS**

*Councilor Flax proposed a referral to look at how to communicate better with the citizens of Groton by looking at the Town website and other current forms of communication.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*There will be an orientation meeting for the RTM on December 7, 2009, to discuss how the RTM operates, its mission, and its rules. The new RTM will be sworn in at its next meeting on December 16, 2009.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox recognized Betsy Moukawsher, noting that she will be given the oath of office on January 4, 2010, thus becoming the new Clerk of the Council. Ms. Moukawsher has been spending time at the Town Clerk's Office observing and gaining information on the operations of the office to enable a smooth transition. Town Clerk Tarbox will be giving the oath of office to the Board of Education on December 7, 2009.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager stated that 354 boxes of food were distributed for Thanksgiving, and a second distribution will be made on December 18, 2009. Local libraries will take canned goods in lieu of fines from December 1 through December 15, with the Groton Public Library extending that until December 31, 2009. The Town of Groton has received the Distinguished Budget Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its FYE 2010 Budget document. Assistant Superintendent Sally Keating is leaving Town employment and a get-together is planned for December 3, 2009. The Town Manager received notice that the layoff at Electric Boat will be postponed until January 29, 2010. He mentioned that there have been discussions with the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding Groton's recent grant application, and DOE has requested that the Town reconsider spending \$50,000 on strategy as they would rather see brick and mortar projects. The Town Manager suggested a referral if the Council wants to reconsider the interest rate on the Elderly Tax Program.*

**2009-0313****Elderly Tax Relief Program Interest Rate****ELDERLY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM INTEREST RATE**

*Councilor Watson requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole to discuss the interest rate for the elderly tax program.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Mayor Streeter stated that he would like the Committee of the Whole to review the referral list and the Rules Committee to look into the possibility of restructuring the Group Committees.*

**2009-0305 Council Goalsetting**

**COUNCIL GOALSETTING**

*Mayor Streeter requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole to set goals for the Council.*

**2009-0302 Appointment of Town Attorney**

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY**

*Mayor Streeter requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole to appoint a Town Attorney.*

**2009-0314 Freedom of Information Act Presentation**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PRESENTATION**

*Mayor Streeter requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole for indoctrination and review of the Freedom of Information Act.*

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*